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E.O. 12065: RDS-1 4/29/02 (TAYLOR, JOHN J.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, CH, US
SUBJECT: SENATOR JACKSON'S INTEREST IN FATHER
VINCENT CHU EMIGRATION CASE

REF: A)STATE 104634, B)BEIJING 2970 C) BEIJING 3702
D) BEIJING 5388

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON APRIL 28 POLITICAL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED FATHER CHU'S CASE WITH ZHANG ZAI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT. WE REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE CASE AND NOTED SENATOR JACKSON'S PARTICULAR INTEREST AND THE FACT THAT THE SENATOR HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED IT WITH AMBASSADOR HAN XU. WE ALSO TOLD ZHANG THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT FATHER CHU WAS AMONG THE SHANGHAI CATHOLIC CLERGYMEN WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED LAST FALL. WE NOTED OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THIS BROADER CASE AND SAID WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING DETAILS OF THE TRIAL OF THE CLERGYMEN, INCLUDING DATE AND CHARGES.

3. ZHANG WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PARTICULAR CASE OF FATHER CHU BUT SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT IF FATHER CHU WAS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED IN SHANGHAI HIS CASE WOULD "OF COURSE HAVE TO BE HANDLED ACCORDING TO CHINESE LAW."

4. AS NOTED IN REF D, THE NEW CHINESE DRAFT CONSTITUTION FORBIDS RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES THAT ARE "DOMINATED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES." THIS PASSAGE, WHICH NOTABLY USES THE WORD "DOMINATE" RATHER THAN "INFLUENCE," SEEMS CLEARLY AIMED AT CATHOLICS WHO HAVE REMAINED LOYAL TO THE VATICAN. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE AUTHORITIES WILL DEAL WITH THE ARRESTED SHANGHAI CLERGYMEN, BUT VERY LIKELY, UNLESS THE CLERGYMEN PROMISE TO END THEIR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY OUTSIDE OF THE PATRIOTIC CATHOLIC CHURCH, THEY WILL FACE A PRISON SENTENCE OR LABOR REFORM.

5. WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON DIPLOMATIC GROUNDS MAY BE SYMPATHETIC TO SENATOR JACKSON'S APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE, THE MINISTRY HAS LIMITED INFLUENCE

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IN THIS SORT OF CASE. THE MINISTRY WAS REBUKED LAST YEAR FOR ATTEMPTING TO BROKER A DEAL WITH THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, IN WHICH THE ARRESTED CHINESE GIRL FRIEND OF A FRENCH DIPLOMAT WOULD BE RELEASED AFTER THE DIPLOMAT IN QUESTION HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED OUT OF BEIJING. THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU AND OTHER BUREAUCRACIES CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTROL READILY WON OUT OVER THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE FOR SENATOR JACKSON TO WRITE VICE CHAIRMAN DENG DIRECTLY RATHER THAN FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG REGARDING HIS INTEREST IN THIS CASE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE SENATOR MIGHT ALSO IN A LOW-KEY MANNER RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE OTHER ARRESTED CLERGYMEN AND EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THEIR CASES WILL BE TREATED WITH COMPASSION.

7. MEANWHILE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP WITH SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSING OUR STRONG INTEREST IN FATHER CHU'S CASE AS WELL AS THAT OF ALL THE ARRESTED CLERGYMEN. HUMMEL
END OF MESSAGE

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